Archivo : Departamento de Instrucción.

Documento: Carta circular del Comisionado Dr. M.G.Brumbaugh a los supervisores de inglés.

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Estudiante: Oscar L. Bunker

En esta carta el Comisionado de Instrucción, Dr. M. G. Brumbaugh, le informa a los supervisores de inglés en la Isla de que el Departamento está dispuesto a construir una escuela rural de un salón en sus respectivos distritos siempre y cuando se reunan ciertas condiciones que él enumera en la carta.

Esta carta es muy importante toda vez que dá una idea clara de los pasos que se seguían para la construcción de escuelas en los primeros años del régimen americano.

El departamento proveerá 100 pupitres libre de todo gasto a condición de que la Junta Local adquiera un número igual y los pague de fondos muni

CC #1

January 1, 1901.

To the English Supervisors:

Please note the following statements:

First. I will furnish free of all expense to your district 100 first-class individual school desks for children, or any number less than 100, provided that the local board or boards in your district purchase an equal number and pay for them out of their own appropriations. It is not necessary that the local boards purchase the desks through this department. All I wish in the matter is that the desks shall be first class in every respect. This department is, however, willing to furnish the desks, if desired, at the lowest cash price direct from the factory, which price is about $3.15 delivered in San Juan. This offer stands for sixty days. Please take the question up vigorously. Desks are here ready for delivery.

Second. This department stands ready to erect in your district a first-class one-room frame rural school, complete in every respect, and furnish it throughout, upon the following conditions:

(1) That the building be located near or in some village in your district where the children of the poor can conveniently attend and where the house itself, by means of its location, would be reasonably protected from vandals.

(2) That the building front upon some definitely defined public highway or street and not upon a trail which may be

changed in location in the future.

(3) That the plat of ground upon which it stands embrace at least one-half an acre, and if possible an entire acre of good ground suitable for the cultivation of small vegetables and fruits, as it is the purpose to use these buildings as the basis of an extended system of agricultural education for Porto Rico.

(4) The ground above described must be deeded free of all encumbrances and without cost to the people of Porto Rico.

(5) You are authorized to make these facts known throughout your district at once, and to say that this department will consider the best proposition, and as soon as a good site is recommended by you to us we will visit it, and if satisfactory will begin work at once. The plans for this building will be ready on January 4, and a public competition for the erection of the building can be advertised as early as January 10, and and building can begin by the first of February, provided this department is not delayed in the securing of a proper site. I therefore request that all reports relating to a suitable site shall reach this department not later than January 20, at which time I propose to begin this work, and I respectfully urge you to see that no delay arises to interfere with the working out of this plan. These houses ought to be occupied by the schools before the end of this school year.

Since this is the first attempt to build schoolhouses for the people of Porto Rico, let it be our pride and our honor to push this matter with all the zeal and spirit that should characterize a capable and efficient organization.

Respectfully,

M.G. Brumbaugh
Commissioner of Education